NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

### **United States Department of the Interior**

National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places DRAFT Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property					
other names/site number Bates Congregational Christian Church					
name of related multiple property listing N/A					
Location					
street & number 1061 Bates Church Rd. not for publication					
city or town Broome x vicinity					
state New York code NY county Schoharie code 095 zip code 12469					
3. State/Federal Agency Certification					
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,					
I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional					
requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.					
In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:					
nationalstatewide _X_local					
Signature of certifying official/Title Date					
Signature of certarying emolar rise					
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government					
In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.					
Signature of commenting official Date					
Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government					
4. National Park Service Certification					
I hereby certify that this property is:					
entered in the National Register					
entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register					
determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register					
other (explain:)					
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action					

# DRAFT Bates Christian Church Name of Property

Schoharie County, New York
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Ownership of Property Check as many boxes as apply.)	Category of Property (Check only one box.)	Number of Reso	ources within Pi	roperty s in the count.)	
(choose and y zones as apply)		(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)  Contributing Noncontributing			
X private public - Local public - State public - Federal	X building(s) district site structure object	1	0	buildings sites structures objects Total	
ame of related multiple p inter "N/A" if property is not part of	roperty listing f a multiple property listing)	Number of cont listed in the Nat		ces previously	
N/A			0		
6. Function or Use					
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.) RELIGION/religious facility		Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)  SOCIAL/meeting hall			
7. December to an					
7. Description Architectural Classification Enter categories from instructions.)		Materials (Enter categories from	m instructions.)		
Architectural Classification					
Architectural Classification Enter categories from instructions.)		(Enter categories from			
Architectural Classification Enter categories from instructions.)		(Entercategories from foundation: Sto	one		

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018 (Expires 5/31/2012)

**DRAFT** Bates Christian Church Name of Property

Schoharie County, New York County and State

#### **Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a summary paragraph that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

### **Summary Paragraph**

The Bates Christian Church (now known as the Bates Congregational Christian Church) is located in the hamlet of Bates, Town of Broome, Schoharie County, New York. The current community, once a bustling Helderberg hilltown hamlet, currently includes the church, several residences around the crossroads and a cemetery. Built in 1859, the church is a Greek Revival, wood frame post and beam building on a dry-laid stone foundation with a rectangular footprint. The facade is a three bay, pediment gable with a center entrance. The interior space is a meetinghouse style with three sections of pews and two aisles. Few changes have been made to the church since construction, and the building remains without electricity or central heating. The church retains a high degree of integrity to its architectural design.

### **Narrative Description**

Location, Setting & Orientation

The Bates Christian Church occupies a .38 acre lot south of the intersection of Bates Church Road and Bates Hollow Road in the hamlet of Bates, formerly known as Smithton, in the southeast corner of the town of Broome. Bates Hollow Road descends into a mountain basin from Broome Center Road, a main throughfare over the mountains from Potter Hollow (in Greene County) to Broome Center (in Schoharie County). The area is a hilly upland, broken by deep ravines. The town of Broome was one of the earliest towns in Schoharie County and once included more than half the land of the present towns of Gilboa and Conesville and portions of the Town of Middleburgh. The Town of Broome was formed in 1797 and originally was called Bristol until the name was changed in 1808 to honor John Broome, Lieutenant Governor of New York State.

The church occupies an open grassy plot to the southwest of the hamlet crossroads. To the north is an unnamed stream, with woods and fields to the west and south. The church faces east toward Bates Church Road and is opposite the Bates Cemetery on the eastern side of the road.

#### Bates Christian Church (1859): one contributing building

The simple, Greek Revival church is of wood frame construction with clapboard siding. It is built on a dry-laid stone foundation and is surmounted by a gable roof. The tin metal roof is underscored by a wide entablature that runs along the front and side elevations but terminates above corner pilasters and beneath the cornice returns of the west elevation. The church is three bays wide by three bays deep. The symmetrical façade is dominated by a pediment with a raking cornice and pilasters on the north and south corners. The main entrance features a simple entablature. The center wood panel double door is flanked by two large rectangular two over two wood sash windows. The north and west elevations have an identical series of three large rectangular two over two wood sash windows. All windows have wood shutters with cast iron shutter dogs. The west elevation is void of fenestration, with the only visible attributes being the vents where the pipes for the cast iron stoves exit the building.

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Interior

The interior space is composed of a traditional meeting house plan featuring a single-volume, open space with three sections of pews and two aisles. The walls are plaster, the ceiling is beadboard and the floor is wide plank wood. The pews are simple wood benches with no decoration. Lighting consists of one hanging brass chandelier in the middle of the room containing four kerosene lamps with glass chimneys and base, a chandelier above the lectern with two kerosene lamps, and two lamps on both the south and north walls in cast iron decorative sconces. Windows are trimmed with simple wood molding.

At the west end of the room is a raised carpeted, wood platform with a lectern and a row of wood chairs. In the northwest corner is a pump organ. This organ was made by the Cornish Pump Organ Company of Washington NJ which manufactured pump organs from 1879-1921. On both the northeast and southeast corners of the room are two cast iron "Iron Wood" wood stoves. These wood stoves were made by The Wehrle Company of Newark Ohio manufacturers of stoves from 1883-1935. The pipes from these stoves run the length of the room and exit the church on the west wall. The interior has seen little change over the years retaining much of its original features.

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8. S	tate	ement of Significance	
App	lic	able National Register Criteria	Areas of Significance
		' in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property nal Register listing.)	(Enter categories from instructions.)
101111	atioi	rial Negister listing.)	Architecture
	Α	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	
<u></u>	В	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	
X	С	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or	
		represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant	Period of Significance
		and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	1859
		individual distinction.	
	D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	Significant Dates
(Mark	( "x"	a Considerations 'in all the boxes that apply.) ty is:	Significant Person (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
	Α	Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	
	В	removed from its original location.	Cultural Affiliation
	С	a birthplace or grave.	
	D	a cemetery.	
	Ε	a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	Architect/Builder unknown
	F	a commemorative property.	ULIKLIOWIT
	G	less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.	

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Bates Christian Church (now known as The Bates Congregational Christian Church) is locally significant under Criterion C as an intact and representative example of rural religious architecture reflecting the design and construction influences prevalent in Schoharie County. Constructed in 1859 the simple Greek Revival building is characterized by a pediment with column pilasters along the façade, a molded cornice, elongated windows, and a double door entrance with a simple surround. The building is a significant local historic landmark and remains an important reminder of the history of the small hamlet of Bates.

#### **Narrative Statement of Significance**

#### **Bates / Smithton**

This area of the Town of Broome was mainly settled by farmers with four major hamlets; Livingstonville, Hauverville, Franklinton, and Bates (originally called Smithton). The Schoharie Turnpike, established in 1802, created a route through the mountains from Athens (at the time named Loonenburg) to Cherry Valley. This allowed access for settlers heading west from the Hudson River Valley to the Schoharie Valley. Because of these turnpikes communities grew along the creeks and roads building mills, shops and later creameries for the farmers in the Helderberg hilltowns.<sup>2</sup>

Bates was established as Smithton in the early 1800s when Comfort Smith and his family came to the area from Saugerties about thirty miles away on the Hudson River.<sup>3</sup> Early arrivals in the hollow were of English and Dutch descent and built a small community of farmers. In 1878 the name of the hamlet was officially changed to Bates, presumably because of several Bates families in the area.<sup>4</sup>

The Greenville - Potter Hollow Turnpike, established in 1845, brought traffic through the mountains closer to Bates and perhaps lead to the growth of the hamlet. In 1866 the hamlet, centered at Bates Hollow Road and Bates Church Road, boasted a grist mill, sawmills, a quarry, a blacksmith shop, a wagon shop, a school, a store, the Christian Church, and a cooper shop. Sometime after 1866 it also had a post office.<sup>5</sup> Just above the store was a skimming station where the milk delivered by farmers was separated and the skim milk drawn back for pigs and calves on the farm and the cream drawn for the Potter Hollow Creamery. Bates schoolhouse had as many as forty pupils attending in the mid-nineteenth century, all ages and all grades. The store and the church were the centers of the community. The store was run by a few different community members throughout its

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Carol Buschynski. Town of Broome 1797-1997 The First Two Hundred Years. https://theoldstonefort.org/town-of-broome/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> "The Helderberg Hilltowns" is a local term for four towns, (Rensselaerville, Berne, Knox, and Westerlo,) in the hills of western Albany County and the town of Broome in eastern Schoharie County, New York above the Helderberg Escarpment in the Helderberg Mountains, the northern most part of the Allegheny Plateau.

William E. Roscoe. History of Schoharie County, New York, 1713-1882: With Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of Some of Its Prominent Men and Pioneers (D. Mason: Syracuse, NY, 1882).

Gertrude Spindler, Recollections from Bates and Vicinity; an interview of Kenneth Cook, 2001.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> D.G. Beers, Map of Schoharie County (Phila delphia: Stone & Stewart), 1866.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Osee T. Mulbury. Middleburgh News. N.d.

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history, in 1912 the original building burned and the store then was run out of a nearby house by Grant Bates until his death in 1930.<sup>7</sup>

The agricultural importance of the hilltowns and the central function of the turnpikes was short lived once improvements in transportation began to take effect. Rural decline commenced when canals and railroads opened the west to settlement and completely by-passed the hilltowns. Bates started to see this decline as well as it became cut off from the traffic of the turnpikes. Currently, there are only about a dozen residences in the hamlet with a few of these houses having been abandoned. None of the commercial buildings or the community buildings survive, except the Bates Christian Church.

### **Bates Christian Church**

The Bates Christian Church was the only church building established in the hamlet of Bates during its history. The closest church to this community was A Friend's Meeting House in Potter Hollow about three miles away. The Christian Church was a religious domination of its own. Early immigrants to this area of Schoharie and nearby Delaware County were generally from New England states where the Christian denomination was popular. The sect was founded by Elias Smith, who had been raised near Woodstock, Vermont in the 1780s. Smith had been raised Calvinist Baptist. The new Christian denomination was a reaction against the old Calvinist doctrine of predestination and like other new sects in this period, believed in shifting the responsibility for salvation to men and women. The Christian Church held that the New Testament, accessible to all, was the only authority and could be used without divine assistance. By the early nineteenth century, Smith had broken with the Baptists altogether and with others of like mind, formed the loosely knit Christian Church, or Christian Connection. 8 A mid-nineteenth century newspaper article described the tenets of its faith as "an unadulterated fraternal love for all men and a free unlimited Christian and denominational union with Christians of all denominations, or with those of their own. They also believe that the Bible is divinely inspired and it is the rule of faith in their life." Another source described the Bible as "the only book that really mattered or was accessible to them," noting that "their preachers were self-educated and ordained by others of their number..."10 The name "Christian" reflects its believers' focus on the New Testament and their commitment to a more active role in their own salvation.

In 1842 several families in Smithton including Keag, Spencer and Wilsey established the meeting of a church in the local schoolhouse under the direction of Rev. Lewis Winans. <sup>11</sup> No other information has been found about these early families or Rev. Lewis Winans. Delegates were appointed from this group to represent the church at the local general conference meetings of the Christian Church. <sup>12</sup> These meetings might have been in nearby Delaware County which had several Christian Church congregations. Munsell's *History of Delaware County* states that in 1880, the First Christian Society in Lansingville (DeLancy) had been in existence since at least 1839 and was sharing a pastor with the Christian Church of East Delhi (National Register listed in 2001). In

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Mulbury, n.d.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Kathleen LaFrank. "Christian Church, East Delhi" National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form (Washington, D.C: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2000), Section 8 page 3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Bloomville Mirror, 13 March 1860.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Michael G. Kenny. *The Passion of Ansel Brourne*. N.d.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Deed for the Bates Church

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> William E. Roscoe. *History of Schoharie County, New York, 1713-1882: with illustrations and biographical sketches of some of its prominent men and pioneers.* (D. Mason: Syracuse, NY, 1882).

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1857, another source notes that a "free church used mostly by the Christians" had been built in North Harpersfield and that Rev. Daniel Grant often led the services there (currently NRE). <sup>13</sup>

#### **Bates Christian Church Building**

The church was built in 1859 after many years of faith meetings in the local schoolhouse (no longer extant). The Bates Christian congregation was deeded land by Comfort and Huldah Smith. The church building was most likely built by a local builder or community members, an adaptation of the Greek Revival style. The church is noteworthy for its meeting house form and simplicity. The simplicity of the Bates Christian Church could be attributed to the small population of Bates when compared to other Christian Churches in North Harpersfield and East Delhi. The Greek Revival style was most popular in New York State between ca. 1830 to the eve of the Civil War. Inspired and guided by the precepts of several pattern books, rural builders widely adapted Classical forms to a broad spectrum of vernacular architecture. A formal, dignified style, the Greek Revival form was based upon the ancient Greek temple. The Bates Christian Church reflects the Greek Revival idiom in the use of elongated windows, a wide frieze band a full pediment gable highlighting the rectangular building. The use of pilasters across the façade also reflected the importance of symmetry as an element of this style. This style is also predominately used in the hamlet with at least four of the remaining six residences in the hamlet built before the twentieth century showing varying adaptions of Greek Revival design.

Greek Revival is also a dominant style in the next hamlet three miles to the east in the hilltowns of Albany County, Potter Hollow and the larger village of Rensselaerville (National Register listed in 2005). Potter Hollow was established in 1806 by Timothy Potter and Samuel Palmer. The residences and hotel at the intersection of Potter Hollow Road and County Road 362 (also known as Broome Center Road) are intact examples of Greek Revival style, built ca. 1820-1840. The two-story columned porch hotel is a rare example of this type of hotel and represents the importance of this turnpike for transportation through the Helderbergs. Ephraim Russ, a local builder, was using Greek Revival for many of the residences and the Presbyterian Church in the village of Rensselaerville. 14

#### Conclusion

Since 1859, one hundred and thirty individuals have been listed as members of the Bates Christian Church in the church record and thirty ministers have officiated. In 1959 a rededication service was held with a large attendance from the community but only nine official members of the church. A small group of women called The Willing Workers kept the church in repair and put on suppers in the building. A Reverend Lawrence Starr was involved in helping keep the building in repair, but by 1974 there were only seven members remaining. Currently, there are no regular services and no presiding pastor. A group of volunteers continues to maintain the building in 2022 and holds a community Christmas Service once a year at the beginning of December.

The Bates Christian Church is a distinctive example of nineteenth-century ecclesiastical architecture in Schoharie County. Its long association with the small hamlet of Bates contributes to its significance in local and regional history.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> La Frank, Section 8 page 3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> William Krattinger, "White, Sidney, House" National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form (Washington, D.C: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2005) section 8, page 5.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Kermit Jackson, History of Bates, 2018.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Blanche Jackson, History of Bates Congregational Christian Church: 1842-1975, 1975.

#### **DRAFT** Bates Christian Church

Name of Property

Schoharie County, New York
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### 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

**Primary Sources** 

Bloomville (NY) Mirror. 13 March 1860.

Buschynski, Carol. *Town of Broome 1797-1997 The First Two Hundred Years*. https://theoldstonefort.org/town-of-broome/.

Hull Nelson, Janet. *Bates Hollow Celebrates Traditions of Yesteryear*. Rensselaerville Press: Resselaerville Historical Society, 2012.

Jackson, Blanche. "History of the Bates Congregational Church." N.p. 1975.

Kenny, Michael G. The Passion of Ansel Brourne. Washington: Smithsonian Institution Press, n.d.

Krattinger, William "White, Sidney, House". *National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form*. Washington, D.C: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2005.

LaFrank, Kathleen. "Christian Church, East Delhi." *National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form.*Washington, D.C: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2000.

Mulberry, Osee. Middleburg News. N.d.

Munsell, W.W. and Co. History of Delaware County. New York: George MacNamara, 1880.

Roscoe, William E. History of Schoharie County, New York, 1713-1882: with illustrations and biographical sketches of some of its prominent men and pioneers. D. Mason: Syracuse, NY, 1882.

Schuessler, Werner P. "Recollections from Bates and Vicinity." N.p. 2001.

Smith, Raymond W. "Gallupville Evangelical Lutheran Church." National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2002.

Stutes, Cory. "Wehrle Stove Factory." Clio: Your Guide to History. May 14, 2020. Accessed August 12, 2022. https://www.theclio.com/entry/103310

#### Maps

Lionel Pincus and Princess Firyal Map Division, The New York Public Library. "New topographical atlas of Schoharie Co., New York. From actual surveys by S.N. & D.G. Beers and assistants" New York Public Library Digital Collections. Accessed July 13, 2022. https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/ee38f010-c5f9-012f-1207-58d385a7bc34

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DRAFT	<b>Bates Christian Church</b>	

Name of Property

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Wenig, E, Wm Lorey, and Robert Pearsall Smith. *Map of Schoharie Co., New York.* Philadelphia: Published by R.P. Smith, 1856. Map. https://www.loc.gov/item/2008620859/.

Burr, David H. Map of the County of Schoharie. New York: Published by the Surveyor General, 1866.

preliminary requested previously previously designated recorded b		ual listing (36 CFR 67 has be pister e National Register Imark lings Survey # neering Record #	een	X S	ary location of additional State Historic Preservation Other State agency Tederal agency Tocal government University Other To of repository:		
Historic Res assigned):	ources Survey Num		R00125				
_	phical Data  Property38 acre previously listed resource						
UTM Refere	<b>nces</b> al UTM references on a c	ontinuation sheet.)					
1 <u>18N</u> Zone	559614 Easting	4699538 Northing	3	Zone	Easting	Northing	
Zone	Easting	Northing	4	Zone	Easting	Northing	

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary is indicated by a heavy line on the enclosed map with scale.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary of the nomination includes the tax parcel historically associated with the Bates Christian Church.

DRAFT Bates Christian Church Name of Property	Schoharie County, New York County and State		
11. Form Prepared By			
name/title Erin Czernecki, Historic Preservation Programs Analys	st		
organization NYS Division for Historic Preservation	date March 20	23	
street & number PO Box 189	telephone 518	-268-2192	
city or town Waterford	state NY	zip code 12188	
e-mail <u>Erin.Czernecki@parks.ny.gov</u>			
Additional Documentation			

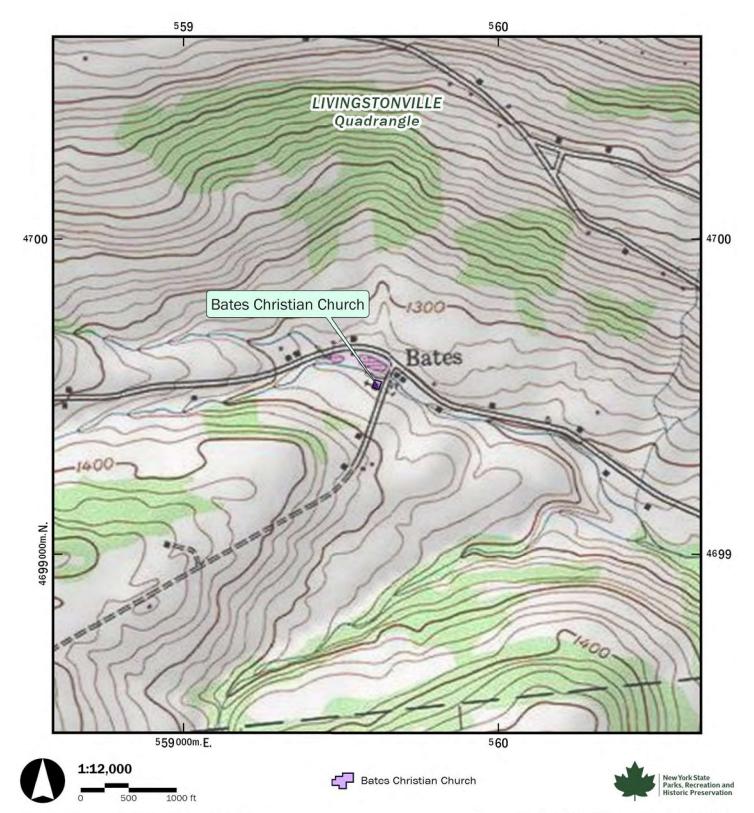
Submit the following items with the completed form:

• Maps: A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- Continuation Sheets
- Additional items: (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

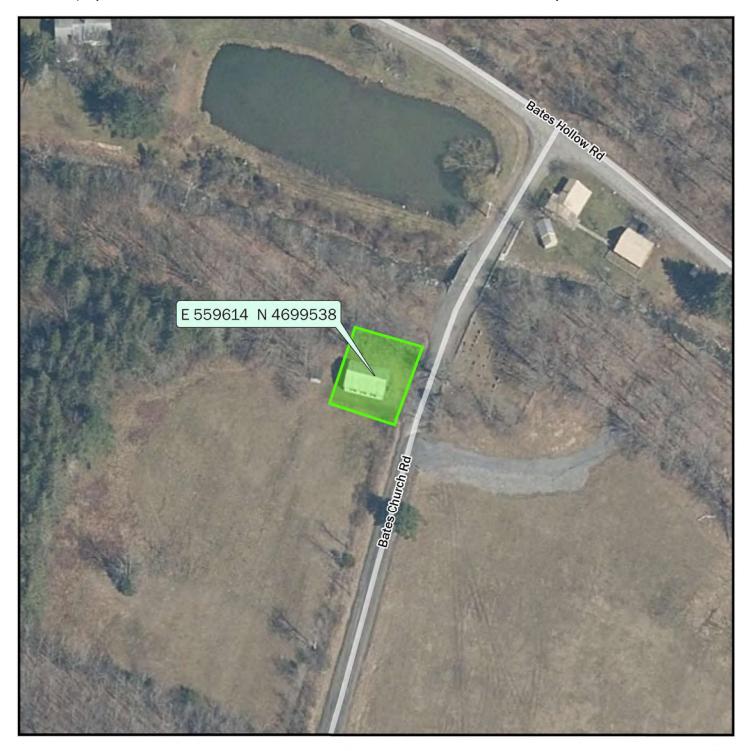
Schoharie County, New York County and State

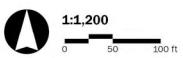


Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N (Meter)

Mapped 04/07/2023 by Matthew W. Shepherd, NYSHPO

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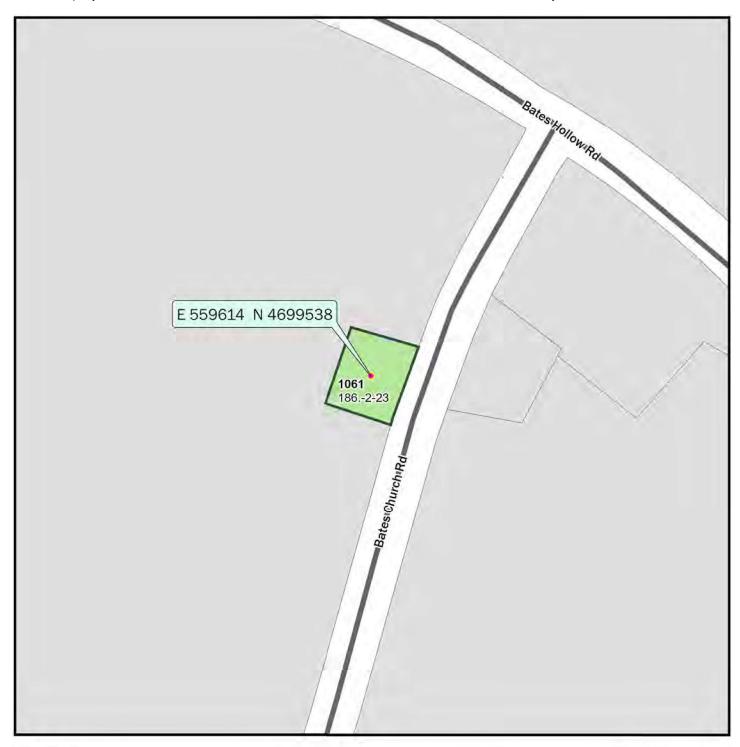


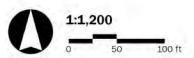




Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N (Meter) • New York State Orthoimagery Year: 2022 • Mapped 04/07/2023 by Matthew W. Shepherd, NYSHPO

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Nomination Boundary (0.14 ac)



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N (Meter) 

Schoharie County Parcel Year: 2021

Mapped 04/07/2023 by Matthew W. Shepherd. NYSHPO

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#### Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Bates Christian Church and Cemetery

City or Vicinity: Broome

County:Schoharie State: NY

Photographer: Erin Czernecki

Date Photographed: July 2022

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

NY Schoharie County Bates Christian Church 0001 East façade and north elevation of church, looking southwest

NY\_Schoharie County\_Bates Christian Church\_0002 East façade of church looking west

NY Schoharie County Bates Christian Church 0003 East façade and south elevation of church, looking northwest

NY Schoharie County Bates Christian Church 0004 Interior view looking west

NY Schoharie County Bates Christian Church 0005 Interior view looking east

NY Schoharie County Bates Christian Church 0006 Interior view looking northeast

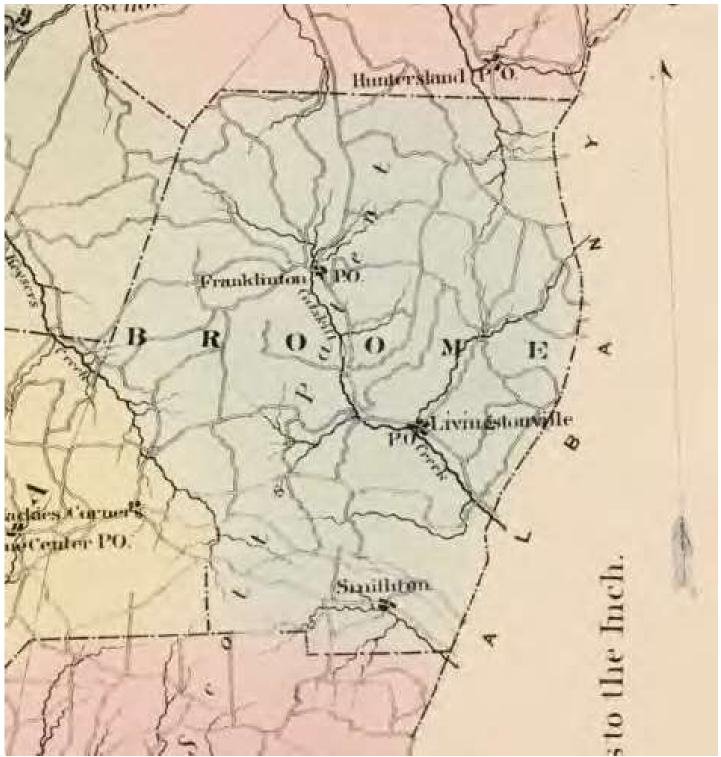
NY Schoharie County Bates Christian Church 0007 Interior view looking southeast

NY Schoharie County Bates Christian Church 0008 View of kerosene lantern and cast iron sconce

NY Schoharie County Bates Christian Church 0009 Interior view of central chandelier and ceiling

NY Schoharie County Bates Christian Church 0010 Interior view of cast iron stove

Schoharie County, New York
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Detail from Map of the County of Schoharie, 1866

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Detail from Map of Schoharie County, 1856

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.





